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NSC BRIEFING

13 April 1960

AFRICA

- I. The picture in the Union of South Africa continues bleak, and in the face of increasing government repression, further racial disorders may occur at any time.
 - A. However, should mention two other areas in Africa where problems are multiplying as independence approaches--Belgian Congo and Somali area.
- II. Congo approaching 30 June independence date amid frantic efforts by Brussels to prepare Congolese for self-government.
 - A. Belgians belatedly attempting train Congolese administrators for takeover.
 - B. Legislative election campaign beginning despite recurring indications of tribal unrest. Should be some consolidation among 80-odd political parties of Congo before elections begin 16 May.
 - C. Elections unlikely lead to domination by any one party or coalition, but Patrice Lumumba's star on the rise.
 1. Lumumba intelligent and magnetic, but often irresponsible in his actions.
 2. Lumumba supported by Belgian Communists, the UAR, Ghana, and certain Belgian financial interests. Possible that Brussels reconciled to him as first Congo premier.
 3. Another front-runner is Joseph Kasavubu, but his support seems limited to Leopoldville area, and there is some nationalist concern over his reported ties with French.

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III. Confusion in Congo may facilitate Communist penetration.

- A. Roundtable conference in Brussels last January was occasion for Congo politicians to seek outside financial aid for elections. Some delegates visited European satellites and several are believed to have been promised Communist support.
- B. Although no known Communists among Congo leaders, Bloc help to persons such as Lumumba may enable Communists to influence policies of independent Congo.

IV. Meanwhile, Belgians seeking US aid to meet Congo deficit.

- A. Belgian officials have warned that "economic and political turmoil" will result if outside aid of \$120 - 135 million not obtained before independence.
- B. Flight of European capital from Congo, which accelerated with promise of independence, is a major problem (first half '59 - \$50 million; second half '59 - \$80 million; Jan '60 alone - \$20 million).

V. The situation in the Somali area is equally confused and explosive.

- A. Recent demands by nationalist leaders of Italian-administered trust territory of Somalia and of British Somaliland Protectorate for an early union increase prospects for serious difficulties between Somalis and Ethiopia.
- B. Nationalists in the Italian trust territory--which is to achieve independence on 1 July--are campaigning for creation of "Greater Somalia" state.

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1. This would aim at eventual unification of all Somali tribesmen living in Horn area, including those occupying trust territory, British and French Somalilands, northern Kenya, and eastern Ethiopia.
2. Trust territory's legislature seeks to promote UN-conducted plebiscite in all areas inhabited by ethnic Somalis in support of "Greater Somalia" concept.

C. Enthusiasm mounting in British Protectorate for early independence and unification with trust territory by 1 July.

1. Group of Protectorate Somali leaders visiting trust territory to discuss unification agreement. Local British officials hope differences will arise between Protectorate and trust territory leaders which will hinder such an agreement.
2. British Colonial Secretary Macleod has agreed to meet Protectorate Somalis in London early in May, and will probably not oppose principle of unification, but will seek to delay it.

D. Ethiopia fears "Greater Somalia" concept will result in detaching its southeastern province of Ogaden, populated largely by nomadic Somalis. This Ethiopia intends to resist strongly.

1. Ethiopia has already become suspicious of Rome and London for what it views as an effort to perpetuate their influence in Horn of Africa.

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